

WI-191
Billingham Property
Whitehaven
Private

c. 1840, c. 1890-1900

Standing on a slight rise of ground on the west side of the village of Whitehaven is this two-and-a-half story, ell-shaped frame house historically known as the Billingham property. Clad in aluminum siding, the house was erected in several stages with the west gable end evidently dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Later modifications were made during the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. Distinguishing the riverfront elevation is a two-story bay pavilion topped by a gable roof, and a second gable marks the center of the older section, thereby providing an overall late nineteenth century appearance. The front porch was erected during the early twentieth century with its characteristic tapered piers, brick plinths, and rooftop balustrade.

The full history of this property has not been established, but the land records refer to it as the "Billingham Property," named for Walter A. and Amanda Billingham, who held title to the land between 1869 and 1879. The couple purchased the property in 1869 in the wake of a Circuit Court settlement of the estate of Dr. Henry Hyland. In the court proceedings the house is listed in the tenancy of Joseph Price. With the publication of the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas the property is designated under the name of "W. A. Billingham" and a marine railway is situated at the site. In 1879 the property was sold to George H. Robertson, George W. Robertson, and James W. T. Robertson. George H. Robertson is recorded on a mortgage of the waterfront land in 1891,

known as the Billingham or Marine Railway property and bounded on the North and West by the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Catlin on the

East by the property of Brennus Palmer...and all the improvements thereon consisting of a dwelling house, store house, oyster house, the marine railway, and all the tools, machinery, appliances, and materials thereto belonging...

For much of the twentieth century ownership was divided between William J. Catlin and Woodland A. Anderson and his heirs. For over the past several decades the property has been held by the Kenney family.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: BILLINGHAM PROPERTY

MHT Inventory Number: WI-191

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-191

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BILLINGHAM PROPERTY

and/or common KENNEY HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 23798 River Street ___ not for publication

city, town Whitehaven ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edward B. and Dale Kenney

street & number 23798 River Street telephone no.:

city, town Whitehaven state and zip code MD 21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 708 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 280 P. 123

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-191

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically known as the Billingham property, and commonly referred to as the Kenney house, this two-and-a-half story, ell-shaped frame dwelling stands at the west end of River Street in the village of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in several stages the west end of the house appears to date to the second quarter of the nineteenth century with later modifications made during the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. Supported on a raised brick foundation, the house is fully covered with aluminum siding. The medium pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) facade is an asymmetrical front with a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. To the right of the entrance is a three-sided bay pavilion that rises two full stories. Sheltering the first floor is an early twentieth century porch of fluted and tapered piers, square brick plinths, and a rooftop balustrade. The second floor is lighted by single-pane sash windows. A cross gable is centered on the early nineteenth century house roof and a gable roof tops the two-story pavilion.

The east gable end of the house is marked by a single one-over-one sash window on each floor, and a six-over-one sash window pierces the gable end to light the attic. Rising through the west gable end is an interior end chimney made of mid-nineteenth century brick. The eaves to the roof are extended and the soffits are sloped.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-bay service wing. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves. An exterior concrete block chimney rises against the north gable end.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-191

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing on a slight rise of ground on the west side of the village of Whitehaven is this two-and-a-half story, ell-shaped frame house historically known as the Billingham property. Clad in aluminum siding, the house was erected in several stages with the west gable end evidently dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Later modifications were made during the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. Distinguishing the riverfront elevation is a two-story bay pavilion topped by a gable roof, and a second gable marks the center of the older section, thereby providing an overall late nineteenth century appearance. The front porch was erected during the early twentieth century with its characteristic tapered piers, brick plinths, and rooftop balustrade.

The full history of this property has not been established, but the land records refer to it as the "Billingham Property," named for Walter A. and Amanda Billingham, who held title to the land between 1869 and 1879. The couple purchased the property in 1869 in the wake of a Circuit Court settlement of the estate of Dr. Henry Hyland.(TF,JR. 1/327) In the court proceedings the house is listed in the tenancy of Joseph Price. With the publication of the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas the property is designated under the name of "W. A. Billingham" and a marine railway is situated at the site. In 1879 the property was sold to George H. Robertson, George W. Robertson, and James W. T. Robertson. George H. Robertson is recorded on a mortgage of the waterfront land in 1891,

known as the Billingham or Marine Railway property and bounded on the North and West by the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Catlin on the East by the property of Brennus Palmer...and all the improvements thereon consisting of a dwelling house, store house, oyster house, the marine railway, and all the tools, machinery, appliances, and materials thereto belonging...(FMS 7/473)

For much of the twentieth century ownership was divided between William J. Catlin and Woodland A. Anderson and his heirs. For over the past several decades the property has been held by the Kenney family.(708/280)

This house falls into Category C, which identifies properties that where alterations should be considered carefully since it is a structure that adjoins a property in the A or B category and whose impact as a contributor to the district must be reviewed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-191

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 9/14/94

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

WI-191
BILLINGHAM PROPERTY
23798 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title

708/280 Edyth K Coleman

to

4/27/1970 Edward B. Kenney
Dale M. Kenney

JWTS 547/206 Thelma Masina Rulien
of the City of Washington

to

7/13/1962 Edyth K Coleman
who assumed the payment of a mortgage
executed by Merton F. Filkins and Joie B.
Filkins dated 12/1/1959 JWTS 490/74

JWTS 518/543 Merton F. Filkins
Joie B. Filkins

to

4/5/1961 Thelma Masina Rulien

JWTS 489/292 Katherine O'Brien Rodman

to

12/1/1959 Merton F. Filkins

JWTS 281/590 Mary L. Anderson
W. Upshur Anderson

to

11/15/1946 Katherine O'Brien Rodman
being known as the 'Homeplace of Woodland
A. Anderson

WI- 198

Page 2

BILLINGHAM PROPERTY
23798 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title continued

281/595

Walter K. Geyer
Anna B. Geyer

to

10/29/1946

Mary L. Anderson
No. 7333 Chancery Court by deed dated
October 29, 1946

JWS 251/478

Mary L. Anderson

to

1/30/1943

Walter K. Geyer
Anna B. Geyer

IDT 206/512

Charles H. Truitt, Sheriff

to

3/5/1938

Mary L. Anderson
Items 2,3,4

JCK 124/353

Elsie V. Anderson

to

1/20/1922

Woodland A. Anderson
Item 7

JCK 102/173

William J. Catlin, et al.

to

5/13/1916

Woodland A. Anderson

WI-194
BILLINGHAM PROPERTY
23798 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

JTT 32/84 George H. Larmore
 Angie N. Larmore

to

5/18/1901 William J. Catlin

JTT 19/349 Henry L. D. Stanford , Trustee

to

4/24/1897 Granville M. Catlin
 known as the Billingham or Marine Railway
 of George H. Robertson and Charlotte E.
 Robertson JTT 14/128 4/11/1895
 \$1500

Mortgage
FMS 7/473 George H. Robertson

to

8/10/1891 Amos Spencer
 \$1500 all that tract of land situated and lying
 in White Haven, on the North side of
 and binding on the Wicomico River known
 as the Billingham or Marine Railway
 property and bounded on the North and
 West by the proprty of MRs. Elizabeth
 Catlin on the East by the property of
 Brennus Palmer....and all improvements
 thereon consisting of a dwelling house,
 store house, oyster house, the marine
 railway, and all the tools, machinery,
 appliances, and materials thereto
 belonging

Page 4

to

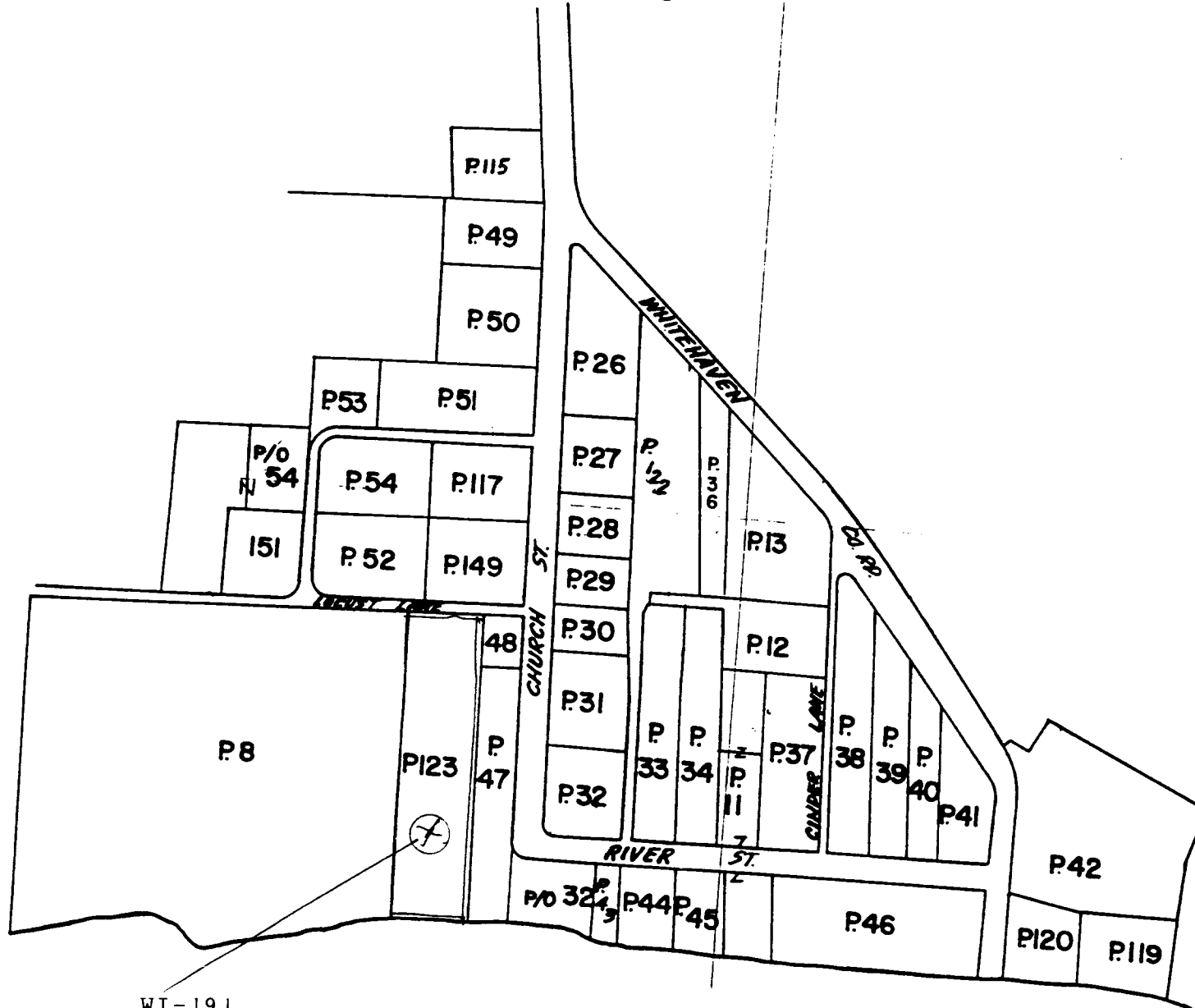
George H. Robertson
George W. Robertson
James W. T. Robertson
\$1500

to

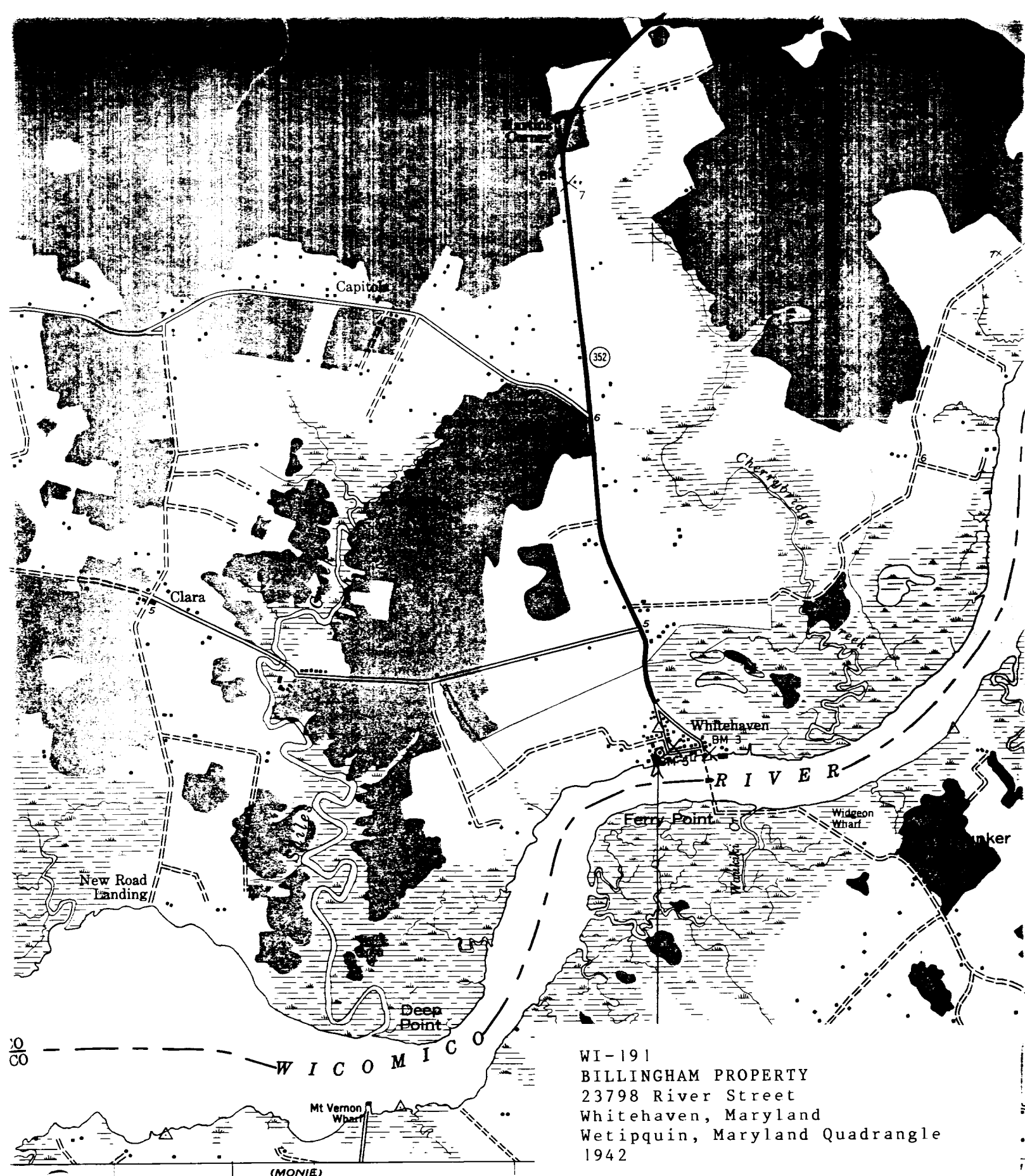
Walter A. Billingham
Decree of Circuit Court 11/12/1866
John G. Hyland, Annie A. Hyland, et al. the
said Levin L. Waters was appointed trustee
to sell real estate of Dr. Henry Hyland
....together with improvments thereon being
the House and lot in White Haven whereon
Joseph Price tenant is in possession, now
resides and all the real estate of which the
said Henry Hyland died siezed and possessed
on the north side of the Wicomico River

WHITEHAVEN

SCALE 1"=200'



WI-191
 BILLINGHAM PROPERTY
 23798 River Street
 Whitehaven, Maryland
 Wicomico County Tax Map 65
 Parcel 123



WI-191
 BILLINGHAM PROPERTY
 23798 River Street
 Whitehaven, Maryland
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942

WI-191

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 0.5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL





